

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01

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CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /102 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 728

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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UNCLAS CARACAS 11301

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ALL ARA CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EGEN VE EALR

SUBJ: SELA PERMANENT SECRETARY'S FIRST CONFERENCE

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO SELA PERMANENT SECRETARY MONCAYO, SELA WILL BE AN ACTION ORGANIZATION WITH A SMALL, BUT HIGHLY-QUALIFIED SECRETARIAT. HE PREDICTS THAT THROUGH SELA'S CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WILL FORGE A COMMON NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR THE GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN MANILA AND THE UNCTAD MEETING IN NAIROBI. END SUMMARY.

1. SELA PERMANENT SECRETARY, JAIME MONCAYO, HELD HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS ON OCTOBER 29, ABOUT A WEEK AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HERE. HE REVIEWED THE OCTOBER 17 PANAMA AGREEMENT WHICH OUTLINED SELA'S ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS AND STRESSED THAT SELA WOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH ALL OTHER LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT PREDUDICING THEIR AUTONOMY.

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2. MONCAYO SAID THAT SELA WOULD ESCHEW GRANDIOSE STUDIES AND WOULD BE AN ACTION ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO CARRYING OUT SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE PROJECTS. HE CITED THE LONG LIST OF CONCRETE UNDERTAKINGS WHICH SOME SELA MEMBERS HAD ALREADY PROPOSED (SEE SEPTEL OF LIST OF THESE PROJECTS). HE DENIED THAT SELA WAS AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED FOR CONFRONTATION AND DESCRIBED SELA AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR CONCERTING LATIN AMERICAN POSITIONS AND FOR SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND FOR DEFENDING NATURAL RESOURCES, AND FOR INTENSIFYING THE PROCESS OF LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION.

3. MONCAYO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS FIRST OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO ORGANIZE THE SELA SECRETARIAT, WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE A SMALL, BUT HIGH-CALIBER, TEAM. ONE OF THE SECRETARIAT'S PRIORITY TASKS WILL BE TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE MEETING OF SELA'S SENIOR CONSULTATIVE BODY, THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL, NEXT JANUARY. MONCAYO PREDICTED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD ESTABLISH A COMMON POSITION FOR THE GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN MANILA AND THE SUBSEQUENT UNCTAD MEETING IN NAIROBI.
SHLAUDEMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA CAPITALS.

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